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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/166,814	10/06/1998	JOHN PAUL RUSSELL		9555

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EXAMINER

TRAN, PHUC H

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2664

DATE MAILED: 08/27/2002

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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/166,814

Applicant(s)

RUSSELL ET AL.

Examiner

PHUC H TRAN

Art Unit

2664

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 06 October 1998 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5,6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2. Claims 1-3, 5-14, 16-22, 24-26 & 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Huang (U.S. Patent No. 6266345 B1).

- With respect to claims 1-2, & 13, Huang teaches a method of transporting data over a synchronous digital network (e.g. Fig. 1 shows the system 110 transmits data over 150 to system 120). The method comprises the steps of: generating in parallel a plurality of synchronous virtual containers (e.g. Fig. 4 shows parallel VCs are transmitted in SDH 150), each at a lower bit rate than a bit rate of the data, each the virtual container having a payload section (col. 4, lines 61-67); associating the plurality of virtual containers with each other by means of assigning association data describing the association into the plurality of virtual containers (col. 5, lines 41-44); inputting the transported data into the payloads of the plurality of virtual containers (col. 5,

lines 27-34); and outputting the plurality of associated virtual containers onto a synchronous digital network (col. 2, lines 42-45).

- With respect to claim 3, Huang also teaches wherein the step of associating the plurality of virtual containers with each other comprises inserting the association data into a plurality of payloads of the plurality of virtual containers, the association data permitting recovery of the original association at a destination end (see bridge paragraph in col. 2 & 3).

- With respect to claims 5-12, & 16-21, Huang discloses wherein the plurality of virtual containers are generated as a plurality of streams of virtual containers and the step of associating the plurality of virtual containers with each other comprises associating a plurality of the streams of virtual containers and data with each other (col. 6, lines 31-51).

- With respect to claim 14, Huang teaches a method of recovering data from a plurality of synchronous virtual containers (e.g. Fig. 5 shows the demapping unit 121). The method comprises the steps of: receiving the plurality of virtual containers (e.g. col. 6, lines 62-64); identifying an association data from the plurality of virtual containers, the association data indicating an association between individual ones of the plurality of virtual containers (col. 7, lines 17-22); reading data bytes from each payload of the plurality of associated virtual containers (col. 7, lines 15-16); and re-assembling the data from the plurality of read payload data bytes (col. 7, lines 23-26).

- With respect to claims 22, 25-26, & 28-29, Huang teaches a method of recovering a data block carried in a plurality of payloads of a plurality of associated synchronous digital hierarchy virtual containers (e.g. Fig. 5 shows the demapping unit 121). The method comprises steps of: receiving a plurality of streams of the plurality of associated virtual containers (col. 7,

lines 7-9); for each the received virtual container stream allocating a corresponding respective memory area for storage of data payloads of virtual containers of the stream (e.g. data storage in memory of system 120); storing the plurality of virtual container payloads in the corresponding allocated memory areas and reading individual bytes of the plurality of stored virtual container data payloads in sequence to reconstruct the data block (col. 7, lines 27-43).

- With respect to claim 24, Huang discloses further comprising the step of assembling the data frame from the parallel read data (e.g. col. 5, lines 17-20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 4, 15, 23 & 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Huang (U.S. Patent No. 6266345 B1) in view of Oksanen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5666351).

- With respect to claims 4 & 15, Huang discloses all the aspect of the claimed invention as set forth above but fails to teach wherein the step of inputting the transported data into the plurality of virtual containers comprises byte interleaving bytes of a frame of the transported data between the pluralities of payloads. Oksanen teaches inputting data into the virtual containers by interleaving (col. 2, lines 41-43). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement the scheme of interleaving data into Virtual Container to transmit in SDH network for mapping from lower-level unit to higher-level frame.

- With respect to claims 23 & 27, Huang also fails to teaches wherein the data frame is distributed between the plurality of virtual containers and the step of: for each the memory area, setting a read pointer to a memory location of the memory area. Oksanen teaches setting a pointer in the virtual container for inputting data frame into the memory area (col. 3, lines 16-22). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention was made to implement the pointer for inputting data into associated memory location of the memory area and data information.

Conclusion

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Kim et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5978377) discloses STM-based ATM cell physical layer processing circuit.
- Engbersen et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6058119) discloses SDH/SONET interface.
- Bonnot et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5675585) discloses method and system for interleaving and deinterleaving SDH framers.
- St. John et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5581566) discloses high-performance parallel interface to synchronous optical network gateway.
- Bleickardt et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5461622) discloses method and apparatus for SONET overhead to align multiple inverse multiplexed data stream.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to PHUC H TRAN whose telephone number is (703) 308-7471. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, WELLINGTON CHIN can be reached on (703) 305-4366. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9314 for regular communications and (703) 872-9314 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 872-9314.

Phuc Tran
Assistant Examiner
Art Unit 2664
P.t
August 23, 2002


RICKY NGO
PRIMARY EXAMINER